

# *City Manager's Report*

## *City of College Station*

# *What's Going on?*

### Special points of interest:

- The First Annual Transportation Summit Deemed a Success
- Health and Safety Expo
- Installation of Park Benches
- College Station continues Free Music Series

### Inside this issue:

Installation of Park benches	2
Recycling Pays Off	2
March Sales Tax Receipts	2
Health and Safety Expo	3
The City Honored with Three Communications Awards	4
College Station Supported Bike to Work Day	4
College Station Continues Free Music Series	5

## **The First Annual Transportation Summit Deemed a Success**

The first annual Brazos Valley Regional Transportation Summit was held on April 26<sup>th</sup> at the College Station Hilton. Brazos Valley Council of Governments and the City of College Station co-hosted the event. Speakers and moderators presented on various transportation issues such as rail, highway, and aviation and public transportation. An invited speaker did each transportation topic in a formal forum and at the end of each session, questions were posed to the speakers.

The keynote speaker for the included luncheon was Ric Williamson, Commissioner, Texas Transportation Commission. Mr. Williamson discussed the Governor's Texas Trans Corridor Plan. Houston City Councilman Carroll Robinson and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels spoke about connecting Houston and the Brazos Valley with a commuter rail system. Other speakers included Tom Till, a member of the Amtrak Reform Council and Katherine Turnbull and Steve Roop



from the Texas Transportation Institute. Houston City Councilman Carroll G. Robinson and our own Mayor McIlhaney had closing remarks to end this very successful first summit.

## **Update on the Proposed UDO**

This month a joint meeting with the Planning and Zoning Commission and the City Council was held to discuss the input received from the Unified Development Ordinance forums held over the past few months. The meeting provided further policy direction for the formulation of the final document. The Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) project is a review and rewriting of all the City's zoning, subdivision and related land develop-

ment codes. The City entered into a contract with Duncan and Associates in the Spring of 2000 to review and consolidate City development codes and ordinances into one document. Several drafts of the UDO have been provided to Council and Planning and Zoning Commission members during this time period, and meetings involving the Council and

Planning and Zoning Commission have been held to review those drafts. The latest draft was released on November 5, 2001, initiating the beginning of the public comment period. It is anticipated the UDO will be adopted during the Summer of 2002.

## Park Benches Soon to Be Installed in Several Parks



The City Council identified as a part of its strategic planning process the need to make our parks more inter-generational in nature with more passive recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages. In keeping with that direction the City will soon be receiving twenty-six (26) heavy duty, decorative park benches. Some of the benches will be paid for from parkland dedication funds and some from community development block grant funds. We are paying for the installation of these benches with parkland dedication

funds. The benches are being installed in Park Zones 2, 3, and 6 involving six parks. The cost of installation (not including the bench cost) of each bench with a concrete slab is approximately \$750. Benches with existing slabs are being replaced by parks operations at no additional cost.

The six parks are:

**Zone 2** - 8 of 26 benches

- Lions Park - 2 benches with concrete slabs.
- Oaks Park - 2 benches with concrete slabs, and 1 bench with

existing concrete slab.

- Merry Oaks Park - 2 benches with concrete slabs, and 1 bench with existing concrete slab.

**Zone 3** - 11 of 26 benches

- Cy Miller Park - 2 benches with concrete slabs, and 1 bench with existing concrete slab. Central Park - 5 benches with concrete slabs, and 3 benches with existing concrete slabs.

**Zone 6** - 7 of 26 benches

- W.A. Tarrow Park - 2 benches with concrete slabs, and 5 benches with existing concrete slabs.

## Recycling Pays Off

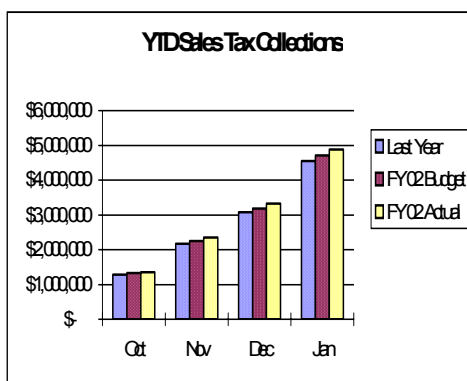
The City of College Station Sanitation Division presented its third "Cash for Trash" award in March. The lucky winner was Jim Sheble of 3315 Westchester Avenue. Mr. Sheble received an award, which consisted of \$250 cash, a plaque and yard sign. The City of College Station Sanitation Division and Texas Commercial Waste announced its "Cash for Trash" contest last November to promote participation in our curb-

side recycling program. Each month one street in College Station is chosen randomly along with two alternate streets. On each recycling day for that street during the month, the recycling coordinator will go to the chosen streets and write down the addresses with recyclable items. One

address will be chosen in a drawing at the end of each month.

The cash prize is to encourage citizens to recycle more and consume less. The intention of the program is to increase participation of residents to recycle through the curbside program.

## March Sales Tax Receipts



Sales tax receipts for March 2002 were \$923,652.39. This is 6.28% above the same month last year. March receipts reflect sales that occurred in February. Sales tax collections for FY 02 YTD are \$6,884,366.19 or 6.65% above FY 01

collections. Sales tax receipts remain higher than last year at the same time. Sales tax revenues are 3.13% higher than the FY 02 budget estimate for the first 6 months of the fiscal year. We are continuing to monitor national, state, and local

economic trends for the effect they may have on sales tax receipts in FY 02, and on the FY 02 budget.

## Health and Safety Expo

The City's yearly employee Health and Safety Expo was held this month at the Conference Center on April 19<sup>th</sup>. This year's event offered several booths on various health topics: Blinn Dental Program, Brazos Valley Ear, Nose & Throat Center provided allergy testing. The Cancer Clinic provided Cancer

information and the Physician's Centre provided rheumatoid/ arthritis information. Gold's Gym offered Bodyflow classes. Bodyflow is a combination of yoga, pilates, and tai chi all mixed into one workout. The benefits of this type of training include stress relief, pain reduction, muscular strength and definition,

muscular toning, and flexibility. It is a mind/body experience that encompasses techniques and exercises from a number of disciplines. The Health and Safety Expo offered handouts to employees regarding various topics such as ergonomics, home security, and traffic safety.



## College Station Employees and their Families Participated in Trash-Off

City employees and their family members participated in the Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off on Saturday, April 6, 2002. Employees met at the College Station Arboretum to clean Bee Creek, working towards Georgia K. Fitch Park. Employees and their families represented the following departments: Legal;

Human Resources; Public Works; Public Utilities; Development Services; and Parks & Recreation. The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off is part of the partnership between Keep Texas Beautiful (locally Keep Brazos Beautiful) and the Texas Department of Transportation. It is the

single largest one-day cleanup event in the state where nearly 200,000 volunteers offer their time to keep our state beautiful. Trash-Off is also the signature litter prevention event of the Great American Cleanup, which is sponsored by Keep America Beautiful and takes place throughout the United States, March through May.

## Brother's Park Pond Renovation now Complete

Brothers Pond was recently renovated to improve the fish and other aquatic wildlife habitat. The pond had filled up with silt over many years and the water quality was very poor. There was also a leak below the overflow dam that kept the pond water level below the desired height. Brothers Pond was also identified as

a future Urban Fishing asset if the Pond could be deepened and the water quality improved. The project was primarily funded by a "KIDFISH" Community Development Grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Inland Fisheries Division. The grant was for \$15,000 with the city required to contribute

\$5,000 to the project. After the water quality improves Texas Parks & Wildlife and the College Station Parks Department will be stocking the pond with different fish varieties. Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will also be assisting in planting some vegetation along the banks which will help reduce erosion and improve the water quality.



Brother's Pond Park Renovation Project



## Community Sponsors Seventh Annual Planet Earth Celebration

The Cities of College Station and Bryan, the Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency (BVSWMA), and the Texas A&M University Physical Plant invited the entire Brazos Valley community to come out to the 7th Annual Planet Earth Celebration held on Saturday, April 20, 2002. This free environmental education festival was held at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater in College Station from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Booths were displayed from event sponsors and several community organi-

zations provided fun environmental education activities on topics such as Water and Energy Conservation, Recycling, Water Quality, Waste Reduction, Clean-Air Vehicles, and Wildlife Conservation. Free educational seminars were provided to attendees with information about composting, organic gardening and pest control, water-saving landscaping, beautification and litter prevention, and greenways. This year's event featured a "Kids' Zone," where kids

decorated grocery bags with Earth friendly messages and artwork, children participated in a T-shirt design contest and played recycling games. The grand prize-winning T-shirt design will be used on staff T-shirts for the 2003 Planet Earth Celebration. The grocery bags were used to sack groceries at the College Station HEB on the official Earth Day, April 22. College Station Employees conducted seminars on topics such as Water Wise Landscaping and Greenways Programs.

## The City Honored with Three Communications Awards

The City of College Station was awarded three communication awards by the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC), Brazos Valley Chapter, at the association's annual Brazos Bravo awards ceremony held on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Reed Arena. The three awards were: Communications Programs/Campaigns: Integrated Communications

(Entire Program) Public Communications & Marketing and Economic Development Departments "College Station, Texas. A Smart Way of Life" (This included four integrated marketing publications.) Design: Annual Report Public Communications & Marketing Department "Smart People. Smart Community. Smart Living." Design: Pamphlet, Booklet,

Brochure Public Communications & Marketing and Economic Development Departments "College Station: A Smart Way of Life"

IABC chapters in Spokane, Washington; Kansas City, Missouri City; and Charlotte, South Carolina judged entries in the local Brazos Bravo awards program.

## College Station Supported Bike to Work Day



The City designated Friday, April 26, 2002 as "Bike To Work Day," a day to celebrate bicycle commuting and encourage others to give it a try. A special celebration was held from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Northgate Promenade to recognize the bike to work day.

The event was sponsored

by Freebirds, Cycles Etc. and Brazos Valley Cyclists, and included participation by the College Station Bike Patrol, the Lion's Club, Kids To Camp Ride, the Brazos Valley Greenways Council, Gold's Gym Spinning, the Brazos Valley Mountain Bike Association and Aggie 96. Information regarding local cycling

clubs and activities was available. Local alternative rock band "Plan B" performed live music and Freebirds offered a free burrito to anyone who arrived on a bicycle.

## *Shining Moments*

### *What's Going on?*

---

City Manager's Report  
City of College Station

#### Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future

---

**WWW.COLLEGE-STATION.TX.US**

---

- *Steve Beachy, Director of Parks and Recreation; and Peter Lamont and David Gerling, Recreation Superintendents received a "thank you" letter from Joseph O'Leary, Department Head at the Recreation, Park, and Tourism Sciences Department at Texas A&M University for attending and giving their input during their Department's accreditation review process on Tuesday, March 26th.*
- *Nita Hillburn, Conference Center Secretary; Jenny Gebhart, Receptionist; and Russell Hughey, Building Attendant received a "thank you" card from Ms. Linnea Gatewood for their help and cooperation setting up for a special event at the Conference Center.*
- *David Gerling received a special "thank you" card from Kristina Ford for his help in changing her flat tire on his way home from work.*
- *Our City Manager Tom Brymer received a letter from a Mr. Dave Vardell. Mr. Vardell's letter complimented our Public Works Department, especially Joe Dudenhoeffer for the expedient response in adjusting the brightness of a street light in his neighborhood.*

## College Station Continues Free Music Series

The month of April featured the first three installments of the College Station Parks & Recreation and College Station Utilities Starlight Music Series. The Starlight Music Series at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater is a series of 11 different free concerts organized to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes. The first concert, Jerry Jeff Walker played to over 7,500 people. The second concert was the Bruce Robison and Bo Diddley conducted the third concert during the month of April. The goodwill created by the series can be seen in the positive comments our Parks and Recreation Department

have received from attendees. The City has instituted a huge recycling program at the facility with the help of Public Works/Sanitation. This program brings a return in revenue and reduces the amount of waste going to the landfill. Portable toilets have also been added to accommodate the higher than anticipated crowds. The remaining dates and acts are as follows:

**May 4 Grupo Vida with  
Fuerza Latina**

**May 11 The Bellamy Brothers  
with Rodney Hayden**

**June 1 Trout Fishing in  
America with Ruthie Foster**

**June 8 Vince Vance and the**

### Valiants

**June 15 The Back Porch 2nd  
Anniversary Special**

**June 22 Ian Moore with  
Hayden Sayers**

**June 29 Big Otis**

**July 13 The Killer Bees with  
Bobby Hall**

